

August 18, 2020

To: State of Texas House of Representative, Human Services Committee

SUBJECT: Visitation Rights of Families with Loved Ones in Assisted Living Facility

I would like to make this plea to the State of Texas House Human Services Committee to please listen to the families of elderly parents such as myself. My Mother, age 87 lives at the Meridien of Temple, a very wonderful place where she lived "independent" in her apartment but with the security and services offered at the Meridien. She has limited mobility and of course hearing and sight is not as great as it use to be but her mind is good. She is so mentally and emotionally distressed because we can not come to her apartment and "visit", help with the bank statement, help with her clothes, and keep the TV, computer and phone working! She feels like she is in jail and that "they will never get out". She can barely get her supplies to her apartment, caring them on her walker.

The Elderly are being forgotten in the mist of all the COVID media attention. At this age, they fear dying anyway and the thought of dying alone or without us being near her is just impossible to console her otherwise.

It is frustrating that "staff, help, whoever" can go into the facility but not even one designated adult family member can come check on them. A phone call only goes so far. They need human family contact.

We, of all people, do not want to bring COVID to her or her friends. So as responsible adults, we would never put her at risk but at this point the very slight risk really outweighs her living her life like this. With the normal attrition of the assisted living facility anyway, people moving on to more skilled care is leaving the facility with more and more unrented apartments which for sure is affecting the financials of the management company. As a result staff and food services are going down in quality from the quality expected when she moved there.

Please allow a designated direct adult family member to be granted access to each living human in assisted living situations.

Lea Ann Jones